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March 27, 2002 LB 1086

SENATOR CUDABACK: No objection, so ordered.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. The reason this was...this approach was taken was to avoid adopting the committee amendment, then having to amend the committee amendment. I meant an...well, anyway, this was the cleanest way to do it. This amendment makes it clear that only the Governor's Office will be affected by this bill. The way the green copy was written, and I believe the committee amendment, it would have been open to any elected person to use campaign funds in this way. In the past we had a senator who, to a greater extent than others, but some did lesser things along that line, who spent campaign funds for fish in a fish tank in the office, purchased gold South Africa krugerrands and clothing and all kinds of other things and it was seen by the public as politicians misusing campaign funds. Rather than being used for the purpose of obtaining office, staying in office, publicizing what you're doing and the things that can be legitimate uses, some politicians were using it as a way to supplement income, raising money for one purpose, then using it for personal reasons. The reason that I want to limit this to the Governor is because he or she, as the case may be in the future, is going to be engaged in the business of the state when this portion of the law comes into play. It's not going to Las Vegas to gamble or the East Coast to gamble or just things that a person may want to do but which have nothing to do with the state's business, and when the state's business is being taken care of we should not restrict the Governor from taking his or her spouse. It's a simple bill. What it attempts to do is very clear and I don't want to talk about it to such an extent that I confuse you about an issue that is not confusing at all. It's very straightforward, but in case you still have questions I will answer them. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on AM3114 to committee amendments to LB 1086. Open for discussion, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would support the Chambers amendment and...and I rose mostly to